

WORKPLACE CONNECTION

"ENRICHING LIVES"

March / April 2011

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DHS Director Leads "Bike to Work" Effort

Mitchell Katz, M.D., director of Health Services, in support of the County's "Bike to Work" campaign is encouraging employees to ditch their cars and use pedal-power to commute to work during May.

The Westside resident often pedals to work at DHS Headquarters on Figueroa Street in downtown Los Angeles. "It is good exercise and reduces my carbon footprint," he said.

"Bike to Work" week will be observed May 16 to 20 with the official kickoff scheduled for Monday, May 16. There will

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Photo by Michael Wilson



Mitchell Katz, M.D., director of health services, is an avid bicyclist and often pedals to work from his home west of downtown Los Angeles. He encourages County employees to "Bike to Work" during May as part of the annual effort to get employees to ditch their vehicles and support clean air initiatives. Metro offers a wide range of incentives for employees who "Bike to Work" during May.

Metro Purchases Union Station for \$75 Million



Supervisor Don Knabe

Negotiations between the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and Catellus Operating Ltd. were recently completed

resulting in the \$75 million purchase of Union Station by Metro.

The purchase, which closes in April,

includes 38 acres of land and the right to build on the property and draw lease revenues from transit operators and businesses.

"As Southern California's largest public transportation hub, Union Station is absolutely critical to the current and future mobility of our region," said Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman of the Metro Board of Directors.

"Our purchase of this historic station will enable us to make the needed investments to accommodate greater

increases in transit ridership... and anticipated future arrival of high speed rail," said Supervisor Knabe.

"We now have the ability to retain the historic nature of Union Station and prepare it to serve as a world class 21st century transportation hub," he added.

The site is expected to see strong growth from construction of the Regional Connection transit project through downtown and the future Metro Silver Line express bus stations on Patsaouras Plaza.

"This direct purchase sets the stage for

See **Union Station** continued on page 2

Fujioka Welcomes March of Dimes Ambassador

CEO Bill Fujioka, second from right, welcomes the March of Dimes national ambassador, who paid a visit to the County during a recent goodwill tour of the Southland. Lauren Fleming, front row, right, presents an original, framed art design to CEO Fujioka. Also visiting the County were, from left, Densel and Nikki Fleming, parents, with son Corbin, Angele Price, executive director, March of Dimes Los Angeles, and Lauren's sister, Erin.

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Photo by Scott Harms

Save the Date!
County Night at
Dodger Stadium
Friday, April 15, 2011

with a special salute to Jackie Robinson

A portion of all tickets sold will benefit the March of Dimes campaign.



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be a "Blessing of Bicycles" on Tuesday, May 17, at Good Samaritan Hospital, and a Downtown L.A. Bike Ride on Wednesday, May 18, beginning on Olvera Street.

"Bike to Work Day" is scheduled for Thursday, May 19 and "Bike to School Day" is set for Friday, May 20.

Metro and other public transportation systems will offer free rides to cyclists who board with their bikes and helmets on "Bike to Work Day."

County employees may pledge to ride on May 19 and be eligible for various gift items. Visit www.metro.net/biketowork to register.

In addition, Metro will emphasize safety during "Bike to Work Week" and offer information on road safety, using the bus bike racks, parking your bike at a Metro station or bringing it onto a train.

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future expansion of the last of the great railway stations built in America," said Metro officials.

Union Station was built in 1939 and is a nationally registered historic landmark.

Did You Know?

Metro's new **Nextrip** service uses a new satellite technology to provide "real time" information to bus riders. The service is being offered on a pilot basis during the month of March, before release to the general public. It identifies bus locations and predicts the next arrival time at a specific stop.

Board Allocates Funds for Don Wallace Trail



Supervisor
Zev Yaroslavsky

Approximately \$300,000 in Third District Regional Park and Open Space funding has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the Don Wallace Trail project in the Santa

Monica Mountains.

The proposed project consists of development of a 2,500-foot long, multi-use recreational segment that connects to the Las Virgenes Creek Trail. The project also includes brush clearance, edge stabilization, drainage devices,

protective fencing and gates, and lighting as needed.

Once completed, the new trail will connect communities in unincorporated Los Angeles County and the city of Calabasas along Las Virgenes Creek, said Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. "There will be a transition to the Malibu Creek Trail which ends at the Pacific Ocean in Malibu," he said.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which is the designated recipient of special funds for projects in the area, will delegate development of the project to the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Supervisors Expand Smart Gardening Program

Two smart gardening learning centers will be added to the County program following recent action by the Board of Supervisors.

The facilities were opened at McNees Park in West Whittier and El Cariso Community Regional Park in Sylmar last year. The new centers offer residents an opportunity to attend free workshops on smart gardening techniques, such as composting, grass recycling, water-wise and fire-wise gardening and low impact design.

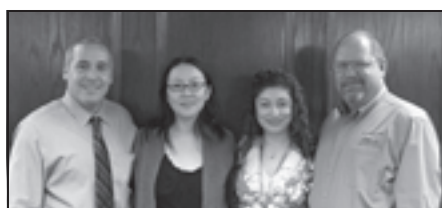
"The popular program is reaching out to new generations of home gardeners and teaching them the skills they need to help protect and preserve the

environment in which we live," said Supervisor Gloria Molina.

Each center includes native landscaping, recycled plastic benches, drip-irrigation and educational signage.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said, "These centers offer great opportunities to showcase innovative and environmentally responsible home gardening" techniques in our beautiful public parks.

For more information on the program, visit www.SmartGardening.com.



Erika Banegas, second from right, welcomes Darren Hoffman, right, and Peter Papadakis and Lucie Kim of Beaches to the training.

Cesar Chavez Week—March 28 - April 1, 2011

The County's 10th annual observance of Cesar Chavez Community Service Week, with the theme "A Decade and Beyond!," begins Monday, March 28 and continues through Friday, April 1.

The Board of Supervisors, on motion of Supervisor Gloria Molina proclaimed

Monday, March 28, through Friday, April 1, 2011 as "Cesar Chavez Community Service Week."

Department coordinators met recently to finalize details for the volunteer opportunities and two-week food drive, which begins on Monday, March 21. All food items will be donated to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Due to the difficult economy, employees are encouraged to donate products for babies, children and pets.

Employees may volunteer for a half-day at Animal Care and Control, Parks and Recreation and the Public Library.

On April 1, the traditional beach cleanup will take place at Dockweiler Beach in Playa del Rey. For more information on activities, contact Peter Papadakis, CEO Workplace Programs, at (213) 974-2523 or at ppapadakis@ceo.lacounty.gov.



At left, Ken Kramer of the Public Library discuss volunteer opportunities with department coordinators at the annual Cesar Chavez Week training workshop, held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Coordinators, right, from various departments also heard presentations from Darren Hoffman, L.A. Regional Food Bank, and Deputy Erika Banegas, First District.



CEO Bill Fujioka, left, presents a County March of Dimes t-shirt to national Ambassador Lauren Fleming, who visited the County as part of a tour of the Southland. At right, DCEO Ellen Sandt receives a briefing from the Flemings on coping with the birth of a premature child.

March of Dimes continued from page 1

March of Dimes Campaign Underway

The County of Los Angeles will officially kickoff the annual March of Dimes campaign, a voluntary employee-led effort, on Tuesday, March 15, at the annual executive breakfast, held at Music Center.

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor of the Board of Supervisors, will be the campaign Chairman. CEO Bill Fujioka will serve as Co-Chair along with Sheriff Lee Baca, Fire Chief Daryl Osby, DPSS Director Philip Browning and Assessor John Noguez.

Last year County employees donated more than \$340,000 to the March of Dimes, which will use the funds to reduce premature births and infant mortality. The non-profit organization also supports important research projects that are aimed at reducing prematurity and birth defects, and provides funding for educational programs for low-income expectant mothers.

Highlighting the County fundraising effort will be "County Night at Dodger Stadium" on Friday, April 15, the March for Babies on Saturday, April 30 at Exposition Park, and "Blue Jeans for Babies," a fundraiser in which County employees pay \$5 to wear blue jeans to work on Wednesday, June 1 and Thursday, June 2, 2011.

Other activities include the opportunity drawing for a Toyota Prius, sales of Spring bean bears and the official County March of Dimes t-shirt.

For more information, please contact your department March of Dimes coordinator or the CEO Office of Workplace Programs.

County Homeowners Eligible for 'Makeover'

A Home Energy Makeover contest is underway now through March 31 to promote the new Energy Upgrade California (EUC) program and to introduce homeowners to energy-saving products and services.

County homeowners may receive up to \$4,500 in rebates and incentives for implementing energy-saving upgrades to their



residences.

"The contest is an engaging, user-friendly way to demonstrate the value of home performance and 'toward zero' approaches to energy savings," said Tom Tindall, director, Internal Services Department (ISD).

ISD manages EUC in the County through its Office of Sustainability. "EUC is helping homeowners save money on upgrades and on monthly energy bills, creating new jobs" and placing the County at the forefront of energy efficiency," said Howard Choy, general manager.

Single-family homeowners over the age of 21 are eligible to apply. Five winners will be selected for energy upgrades and a sixth winner will be awarded a Toward Zero Energy Use Upgrade.

For more information and to enter the contest, visit www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org/LAHomeMakeover.

Did You Know?

South Whittier's Sunshine Shuttle Service is a popular public transit option for residents travelling to local and regional destinations, such as schools, community centers, parks and libraries. Two new natural gas, heavy duty shuttle buses will be added to the fleet next year, a result of First and Fourth Supervisorial Districts' Proposition A funding.

Civic Center Clean Air/Rideshare Fair Moved to DHS Administration

The annual Civic Center Clean Air/Rideshare Fair, which promotes alternative ways of commuting to



Employees visit the DPW booth.

work instead of driving alone, was moved last year from the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration to DHS Administration due to construction work on the new Civic Center Park.

County employees are encouraged to use public transportation, such as buses, light rail or trains, or Rideshare to work in a carpool or vanpool.

The Rideshare Fair at DHS featured booths with information from Metro, VPSI vanpool, Metrolink, the Department of Public Works and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. L.A.

Financial Credit Union once again offered a "green" loan to employees seeking to purchase a hybrid vehicle.



The DPW hybrid vehicle on display.

L.A. Clippers Tickets on Sale

The Los Angeles Clippers basketball team is partnering again with the County of Los Angeles to raise funds for the March of Dimes campaign.

On Saturday, April 2, the team will face the Oklahoma City Thunder in a showdown at the Staples Center on Figueroa Street in downtown L.A.

Tickets are available for the loge end (\$60) and the 200 (\$45) and 300

(\$30) levels. They may be purchased by contacting Brad Eisen at (213) 763-4616 or beisen@clippers.com. Credit card orders only may be faxed to Eisen at (213) 742-7570.

A portion of each ticket sold will be donated to the March of Dimes. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dodger Stadium Express

Metro will again offer the Dodger Stadium Express, a free bus service from Union Station to Chavez Ravine, to anyone holding a game ticket during the 2011 season. The buses will run every 10 minutes prior to

the game and about every 30 minutes throughout the game.

The Dodger Stadium Express may be boarded at Patsaouras Bus Plaza at the east portal of Union Station.

Calendar of Events

Rule 2202 ETC Training

Thurs., March 17, 8:30 a.m.

SCAQMD Headquarters
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA

Wed., March 30, 8:30 a.m.

Courtyard by Marriott
2100 Empire Ave.
Burbank, CA 91504

(Note: ETC training fee must be paid in advance.)

ETC Marketing Workshop

Tues., April 19, 8:30 a.m.

Metro Headquarters
One Gateway Plaza (Union Station)
3rd Floor, Board Room
Los Angeles, CA

March of Dimes "March for Babies"

Sat. April 30, 8:00 a.m.

County Team Photo: 7:30 a.m.
CEO booth
Exposition Park, near USC
Los Angeles, CA

Special Tribute to Jackie Robinson



and Fireworks after the game!

County of Los Angeles
2011 March of Dimes Campaign

County Night at Dodger Stadium

Dodgers vs. St. Louis Cardinals
Friday, April 15, 2011 @ 7:10 p.m.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are inviting all County of Los Angeles employees, their families and friends to Dodger Stadium!

Please choose from three different levels of seats to enjoy the game.

A portion of ticket proceeds will be donated to the County of Los Angeles 2011 March of Dimes Campaign.

Deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, April 1, 2011

Package Level	# of Seats	Price	Total
Infield Loge Box	_____	\$50	\$ _____
Preferred Field Box	_____	\$40	\$ _____
Infield Reserve	_____	\$25	\$ _____
Lower Reserve	_____	\$15	\$ _____

Department Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Checks payable to:
LAC Volunteer Fund
CEO/WPP
500 W. Temple Street, B-1
Los Angeles, CA 90012



For more information, please contact your Departmental March of Dimes Coordinator at _____ or Gina Villegas, Countywide Team Leader, CEO/Office of Workplace Programs (213) 974-1171 or gvillegas@ceo.lacounty.gov fax: (213) 633-4694

There are no returns or refunds with this offer. Receipt of this form does not guarantee a purchase of tickets. All tickets are subject to availability and are sold on a first come, first served basis.



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